

# THE DETECTIVE'S REPORT.

## The Georgia Burning.--Sam Hose Not Guilty of Rape.

### The Death of Cranford.--Telling Indictment Against Gov. Candler.

#### A Deplorable Condition.--A Negro's Life of Little Value.--White Murderers Go Unpunished.

The colored citizens of Chicago sent Detective Louis P. Le Vin to Georgia to investigate the facts relative to the burning of SAM HOSE, at Newnan, Georgia.

Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett publishes the report in full and while we are late in presenting it to our readers, it will prove to be interesting information.

The full text of the report is as follows:

About three weeks ago I was asked to make an impartial and thorough investigation of the lynchings which occurred near Atlanta, Ga., not long since. I left Chicago for Atlanta, and spent over a week in the investigation. The facts herein were gathered from interviews with persons I met in Griffin, Newnan, Atlanta and in the vicinity of these places.

I found no difficulty in securing interviews from white people. There was no disposition on their part to conceal any part they took in the lynchings. They discussed the details of the burning of Sam Hose with the freedom which one would talk about an afternoon's diversion in which he had very pleasantly participated.

WHO WAS THE VICTIM?  
Who was Sam Hose? His true name was Samuel Wilkes. He was born in Macon, Ga., where he lived until his father died. The family, then consisting of his mother, brother and sister, moved to Marietta, where all worked and made the reputation of hard-working, honest people. Sam studied and was soon able to read and write, and was considered a bright, capable man. His mother became an invalid, and as his brother was considered almost an imbecile, Sam was the mainstay of the family. He worked on different farms, and among the men he worked for was B. Jones, who afterwards captured him and delivered him over to the mob at Newnan.

Sam's mother partly recovered, and as his sister married, Sam left and went to Atlanta to better his condition. He secured work near Palmetto for a man named Alfred Cranford, and worked for him for about two years. Up to the time of the tragedy, I will not call it a murder, for Sam was a Negro stealing into the house and murdering the unfortunate man at his supper has no foundation in fact. Equally untrue is the charge that after murdering the husband he assaulted the wife. The reports indicated that the murderer was a stranger, who had to be identified. The fact is he had worked for Cranford over a year.

THE CRIME COMMITTED.  
Was there a murder? That Wilkes killed Cranford there is no doubt, but under what circumstances can never be proven. I asked many white people of Palmetto what was the motive. They considered it a useless question. A "nigger" had killed a white man, and that was enough. Some said it was because the young "niggers" did not know their places, others that they were getting too much education, while others declared that it was all due to the influence of the Northern "niggers." W. W. Jackson, of Newnan, said: "If I had my way about it I would lynch every 'nigger' that comes this way. They are at the bottom of this." John Low, of Lincoln, Ala., said: "My Negroes would die for me simply because I keep a strict hand on them and allow no Northern Negroes to associate with them."

Upon the question of motive there was no answer except that which was made by Wilkes himself. The dispatches said that Wilkes confessed both to the murder and the alleged assault upon Mrs. Cranford. But neither of these reports is true. Wilkes did say that he killed Mr. Cranford, but he did not at any time admit that he assaulted Mrs. Cranford. This he denied

as long as he had breath.

#### THE STORY OF THE TROUBLE.

After the capture Wilkes told his story. He said that his trouble began with Mr. Cranford a week before. He said that he had word that his mother was much worse at home, and that he wanted to go home to visit his mother. He told Mr. Cranford and asked for some money. Cranford refused to pay Wilkes, and that provoked hard words. Cranford was known to be a man of quick temper, but nothing more occurred that day. The next day Cranford borrowed a revolver and said that if Sam started any more trouble he would kill him.

Sam, continuing his story, said that on the day Cranford was killed he (Sam) was out in the yard cutting up wood; that Cranford came out into the yard, and that he and Cranford began talking about the subject of their former trouble; that Cranford became enraged and drew his gun to shoot, and then Sam threw the ax at Cranford and ran. At the time of the encounter in the yard, Sam said that Mrs. Cranford was in the house, and that after he threw the ax at Cranford he never saw Mrs. Cranford, for he immediately went to the woods and kept in hiding until he reached the vicinity of his mother's home, where he was captured. During all the time Sam was on the train going to the scene of the burning, Sam is said by all I talked with to have been free from excitement or terror. He told his story in a straightforward way, said he was sorry he had killed Cranford and always denied that he had attacked Mrs. Cranford.

MRS. CRANFORD WAS NOT ASSAULTED.  
I did not see Mrs. Cranford. She was still suffering from the awful shock. As soon as her husband was killed she ran to the home of his father-in-law, where she was the mainstay of the family. She worked on different farms, and among the men he worked for was B. Jones, who afterwards captured him and delivered him over to the mob at Newnan.

THE BEST PEOPLE "GUILTY."  
John Haas, President of the Capitol Bank, was particularly prominent in advocating the burning. People doing business at his bank, and coming from Newnan and Griffin, were urged to make an example of Sam by burning him.

W. A. Hemphill, President and business manager, and Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, contributed more to the burning than any other men and all other forces in Georgia. Through the columns of their paper, they exaggerated every detail of the killing, invented and published inflammatory descriptions of a crime that was never committed, and by glaring headlines continually suggested

the burning of the man when caught. They offered a reward of \$500 blood money for the capture of the fugitive, and during all of the time of the man-hunt they never made one suggestion that the law should have its course.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The Governor of the State acquiesced in the burning by refusing to prevent it. Sam Wilkes was captured at 9 o'clock Saturday night. He was in Griffin by 9 o'clock Sunday morning. It was first proposed to burn him in Griffin, but the program was changed, and it was decided to take him to Newnan to burn him. Governor Candler had ordered that Wilkes should be taken to the Fulton county jail when caught. That would have placed him in Atlanta. When Wilkes reached Griffin he was in custody of J. B. Jones, J. L. Jones, R. A. Gordon, William Matthews, P. F. Phelps, Charles Thomas and A. Kogowski. They would not take the prisoner to Atlanta, where the Governor had ordered him to be taken, but arranged to take him to Newnan, where they knew a mob of six thousand were waiting to burn him. It is nearer to Atlanta from Griffin than Newnan. Besides, there was no train going to Newnan that Sunday morning, so the captors of Wilkes were obliged to secure a special train to take the prisoner to the place of burning. This required over two hours' time to arrange, so that the special train did not leave Griffin for Newnan until 11:40 a. m.

#### THE CAPTURE OF THE VICTIM.

Meanwhile the news of the capture of Wilkes was known all over Georgia. It was known in Atlanta in the early morning that the prisoner would not be brought to Atlanta, but that he would be taken to Newnan to be burned. As soon as this was settled, a special train was engaged as an excursion train to take people to the burning. It was soon filled by the citizens, who cried out, "Special train to Newnan! All aboard for the burning!" After this special moved out, another was made up to accommodate the late comers and those who were at church. In this way more than two thousand citizens of Atlanta were taken to the burning, while the Governor, with all the power of the State at his command, allowed all preparations for the burning to be made during ten hours of daylight, and did not turn his hand to prevent it.

#### WOULD NOT BEG FOR MERCY.

I do not need to give the details of the burning. I mention only one fact, and that is the disappointment which the crowd felt when it could not make Wilkes beg for mercy. During all the time of his torture he never uttered one cry. They cut off both ears, skinned his face, cut off his fingers, gashed his legs, cut open his stomach and pulled out his entrails, then when his torturers broke the iron chain, they pushed his burning body back into the fire. But through it all Wilkes never once uttered a cry or beg for mercy. Only once in a particularly desecrating torture did he speak, then he simply groaned, "Oh, Lord Jesus."

Among the prominent men at the burning, and whose identity was disclosed to me, are William Finton, Clair Owens and William Folts, of Palmetto; W. W. Jackson and H. W. Jackson, of Newnan; Peter Howson and T. Vaughn, of the same place; John Hazlett, Pierre St. Clair and Thomas Lightfoot, of Griffin. R. J. Williams, ticket agent at Griffin, made up the special Central of Georgia R. R. train and advertised the burning at Griffin, while S. F. Wylie and George Smith, of Atlanta, made up two special Atlanta and West Point Railroad trains. All of these gentlemen of eminent respectability could give the authorities valuable information about the burning if called upon.

#### CAN GIVE NO NAMES.

While Wilkes was being burned the colored people fled terror-stricken to

the woods, for none knew where the fury would strike. I talked with many colored people, but all will understand that I can give no names.

The torture and hanging of the colored preacher is everywhere acknowledged to have been without a shadow of reason or excuse. I did not talk with one white man who believed that Strickland had anything to do with Wilkes. I could not find any person who heard Wilkes mention Strickland's name. I talked with men who heard Wilkes tell his story, but all agreed that he said he killed Cranford because Cranford was about to kill him, and that he did not mention Strickland's name. He did not mention it when he was being tortured because he did not speak to anybody. I could not find anybody who could tell me how the story started that Strickland had ordered Wilkes to kill Cranford.

On the other hand, I saw many who knew Strickland, and all spoke of him in the highest terms. I went to see Mr. Thomas, and he said that Strickland had been about his family for years, and that he never knew a more reliable and worthy man among the colored people. He said that he was always advising the colored people to live right, keep good friends with the white people, and earn their respect. He said he was nearly sixty years old and had not had five dollars at one time in a year. He defended the poor time in a year against the mob for a long time, and the mob finally agreed to put him in jail for a trial, but as soon as they had Strickland in their control they proceeded to lynch him.

#### ROBUST TORTURING OF THE PREACHER.

The torture of the innocent colored preacher was only a little less than that of Wilkes. His fingers and ears were cut off, and the mob inflicted other tortures that cannot even be suggested. He was strung up three times and let down each time so he could confess. But he died protesting his innocence. He left a wife and five children, all of whom are still on Colonel Thomas' premises.

I spent some time in trying to find the facts about the shooting of the five colored men at Palmetto a few days before Cranford was killed. But no one seemed to be able to tell who assassinated the men, and as they were not given a trial, there was no way to get at any of the facts.

It seems that one or two barns or houses had been burned, and it was reported that the Negroes were setting fire to the buildings. Nine colored men were arrested on suspicion. They were not men of bad character, but quite the reverse. They were intelligent, hard-working men, and all declared they could easily prove their innocence. They were taken to a warehouse to be kept until their trial next day. That night, about 12 o'clock, an armed mob marched to the place and fired three volleys into the line of chained prisoners. They then went away thinking all were dead. All the prisoners were shot. Of these, five died. Nothing was done about the killing of these men, but there families were afterward ordered to leave the place, and all have left. Five widows and seventeen fatherless children, all driven from home, constitute one result of the lynching. I saw no one who thought much about the matter. The Negroes were dead, and while they did not know whether they were guilty or not, it was plain that nothing could be done about it. And so the matter ended.

With these facts I made my way home, thoroughly convinced that a Negro's life is a very cheap thing in Georgia.

LOUIS P. LE VIN.

Ionian Oilro.

All members wishing to remain in this circle will please attend the meeting at Miss Nannie Crump's, 606 W. Leigh St., Friday, Oct. 13th, at 7:30 P. M.

#### DR. GRAHAM IN ARKANSAS.

HELENA, ARKANSAS, Oct. 5th, 93.

Special to the Planet:

Rev. W. F. Graham of Richmond, Va., has been spending a part of his vacation in East Arkansas, his old home. At Helena he has been received with enthusiastic pleasure. Centennial Baptist pulpit was occupied by him last Sunday morning and night. The morning sermon was a rare treat, the subject being "The Goal of the Christian Race," text, Hebrews 12:1-2. After portraying most vividly the ancient Olympic races from which Paul drew his great comparison, the speaker exhorted the Christians to think on the importance of the contest in which they were engaged. They should lay aside all sinful weights and run the race with patience. All eyes should be fixed on Jesus who sits at the right hand of the Father.

#### THE RACE AND HAPPINESS.

This race must be happy, the runners must be enduring. Not for a day, not for a month, not for a year, but as long as life lasts, this race must be kept up. Said he, "Today there are so many people in the church who will not give the whole of Sunday to the service of the Lord, will not attend every service of the church, because they have themselves deluded as to the Christian's duty on the race course."

"On, I can't always be in church; I want some pleasure!" is the plea of thousands of young Christians to-day. No time for resting." He showed that the Christians had pleasure in God's house. Not only are Christians compassed about by earthly witnesses, but the souls of the departed saints and loved ones are looking on to see whether or not the race is well run. This should give impetus to make a better showing in the Christian race.

Evening services as well as morning services were very largely attended, and the discourse at this time was not lacking in any essential of a well delivered, reviving sermon.

#### AN EFFICIENT PREACHER.

Doctor Graham has shown himself to be one of the most effective preachers of the times, and the Centennial will be a great blessing to the community. His commanding form, his excellent tone of voice, his quick perception, his faultless logic, his natural, fascinating eloquence go to make him a jewel of the rostrum. His ready pen, his deep writings so often read here, prove him to be no stranger to the subject. His thought in the private study, his manly stand in favor of Negro development in mind and body, his plea for practice in operation of business affairs, his winsome manner even to those who disagree with him, his agitation of absolute social purity all go to make him one of the most creditable, most reliable leaders of the Negro race.

Dr. Graham is now pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., Vice-President of the Virginia State Beneficial Insurance Company, the only institution of the kind among Negroes. Arkansas will ever love and respect him.

Very truly yours,  
E. C. MORRIS.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

Sunday School lesson explained by Prof. George R. Hovey on last Saturday.

Mr. Paul Pollard, one of our young men, who is attending the Y. N. and O. L. conducted the boys' meeting last Sunday.

The open meeting for men was crowded last Sunday, conducted by General Secretary, S. O. Burrell. Subject, "A Decision for God." The men took an active part. Mr. Paul Pollard gave about ten minutes to the subject, followed by others. The solo rendered by Rev. Holmes of the Va. Union University and Director O. C. Williams, accompanied by Mr. T. H. Wyatt were inspiring.

The Night School is now opened and ready for work. Tell your friend about this opportunity. Prof. Roger J. Kyles will give special attention to the short-hand class. Principal, Mr. W. S. Morgan; Assistant, Miss Columbia Williams.

Remember the date for the Lecture, at the True Reformer's Hall, October 20th at 8 P. M., by Madame Mary Church Terrell, Washington, D. C. Madame Maggie Mitchell Walker, G. W. Secretary of the I. O. S. L. will introduce the Madams. Help us in this effort. Let Richmond show her interest in that which is good. Subject, "The Bright Side." Admission 15 cents to all parts of the hall. Special music.

This is your opportunity to be helped. Prof. G. R. Hovey will explain the Sunday School Lesson to-day at 5 P. M., at our rooms. Free to all. Meetings in the jail, Sunday 11 A. M. Mr. Robert H. Thurston, President of the Sunday School Union, will address the boys Sunday 4 P. M.

Assistant State Secretary, Mr. W. R. Walker, will address the men Sunday, 5:30 P. M. Subject, "The Christian Soldier." Special solo by Mr. J. Stuart Hopkins of the white Y. M. C. A.

—Mr. S. H. Hart of Jacksonville, Fla., was in the city and called on us in company with Rev. W. E. Parlee.

#### PYTHIAN NOTES.

The Calanthe Club on Church Hill had an excellent meeting, Monday, Oct. 9, 1893. This is another effort of Deputy Anna Taylor, and its success is remarkable. The ladies expect to be made into a Court at a very early date and wish this as a mild hint to the Grand Officers to listen for an invitation to the East-end very soon. This promises to be one of the largest courts in the state. Next Monday will be a special rally to pay up. All must be present.

Mrs. ANNA TAYLOR, Chairman.

Mary's Band met Tuesday, the 10th. They had good attendance. I am thankful to see that the Pythian brothers are rendering their assistance to the juveniles by putting in their children. Two of the brethren gave a strange rap and when they were answered, we were surprised by receiving some of their children to join the juveniles. We made a good many candidates at this meeting and have been making candidates for three meetings. Matrons, please be interested in the working up of your clubs, which have been on hand so long, and try to bring it to a close. Don't get discouraged, but trust in the Lord and He will help you.

Mrs. ANNA TAYLOR.

Manchester Lodge, No. 11, met on Tuesday night, 10th inst. The attendance was excellent and the members seemed thoroughly interested in all the affairs pertaining to the lodge's progress. The lodge was glad to see P. O. Samuel Baker, of Maseo Lodge, No. 35, who gave a good talk; and at ways welcome Sir John R. Uggill, of Planet Lodge, No. 23. Sir Cyrus H. Gaines is still sick. Members, go to see him.

Manchester Court, No. 177, met on last Wednesday evening. Much business was transacted. One member was initiated into the mysteries of the court. We had with us Deputy Anna Taylor of Richmond, who spoke very encouragingly to the sisters. We are always glad to have her with us. She has not forgotten us, since we were made. She has our best wishes.

Mrs. Nancy Harris, of Manchester Court, No. 177, is sick at her home in Newtown.

Pure Gold Court, No. 59, meets Monday evening, 18th inst. All members are requested to be present at 4 o'clock. Business of importance.

#### SPECIAL RALLY DAY SERVICES

At First Presbyterian Church, Cor. Monroe and Catherine Sts.

Sunday, October 15th, 1893.

The church being considerably in debt takes this method of raising money to meet its obligations and invites all friends to come out and assist. Special sermons and special music all day.

Rev. J. Andrew Bowler, who is prominent in church and school, having been for many years an educator and preacher and who is well-known as such, will have charge of the morning service and will preach at 11 a. m. Special music by Madame Cross, who always makes a favorable impression upon the public.

Committee in charge of this service, N. P. Pollard, Mrs. R. M. Gee.

Afternoon services at 3 P. M. Preaching by Rev. J. Calvin Stewart of the Church of the Covenant. Dr. Stewart is a most impressive pulpit orator.

Mrs. Carrie E. Hawkins, Miss Margaret Tinsley, Mr. W. Q. Moon and Mr. George W. Lewis will sing. These singers are well known to the public and it will be a great treat to hear them.

Committee in charge of this service, Dr. P. B. Ramsey and Mrs. W. R. Grey.

Night Service at 8 P. M.—Preaching by Rev. Dr. Donald Guthrie of the 2nd Presbyterian Church. Dr. Guthrie is a successor to the late Dr. Hoge and is a preacher of great ability.

Music by Mrs. S. Alice Kemp Burrell. She needs no introduction to the public as one of Richmond's sweetest. Committee in charge of this service, O. H. Shepperson and Mrs. F. E. Oliver.

Special collections at each service. All are invited to attend and assist. You will be pleased with the exercises.

Mrs. OLIVIA C. BOLDEN, Organist;

Rev. W. E. PANTER, Pastor.

#### A Correction.

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL, P. O. G. VA.

October 11, 1893.

Mr. Editor:  
I desire to correct a mistake in the last issue of your paper that is, some names were not properly reported: Rev. Henry Williams, D. D., and wife, and Rev. Harris and Prof. Colson. Miss Elizabeth Tabb, Miss Sarah Harvey and others I will not mention. I am yours for success,  
W. E. WOOD.

#### PERSONALS AND BRIEFS.

—Mr. H. Royal of Newport News, Va., called on us in company with Mr. Richard Carter.

—The popular Miss Lizzie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Burrell is spending a pleasant time in Philadelphia.

—Mrs. Washington Diggs of Phoenix, Va., is in the city, the guest of Mrs. John R. Chiles, 216 W. Leigh St.

—Rev. W. R. Gullins of Smithfield, Va., was in the city and called on us.

—Mrs. Jane Roane of New York, in company with Miss Mary West of this city, called on us.

—Mrs. George J. Davis, of Hampton, Miss Bertha E. Hughes of Manchester, and Miss Laura E. Hobson called on us.

—Miss Sallie Cephas, of 408 East Jackson St., is suffering from a sprained ankle, and is being treated by Dr. R. E. Jones.

For pure medicines, drugs, &c., call on Messrs. Thompson and Benson. See advertisement.

—Mr. Richard Bryant, a well-known citizen died last Thursday.

—For fine fish, oyster and game, call on Mr. H. F. Jonathan. See advertisement.

—Rev. Evans Payne entered suit for \$5000 against Dr. R. F. Tancil. The case will be called in Henrico County Court. This is the outcome of the suit of Payne against Payne. The charge is slander.

—The Virginia Union University is now open to receive students. Prof. G. Rice Hovey has charge. See advertising announcement.

—Mr. F. E. Brown, who has been confined to his home for several days is now out, after the skillful treatment of Dr. J. H. Merriweather.

—Mrs. T. C. Coleman, who has been spending some time with her mother on West Leigh Street, left last week to join her husband in Atlantic City, N. J., from which place they will go to Philadelphia, Pa., their home.

—Miss Cassie Isham is now teaching in Buckingham County, Va.

—The Old Dominion Shirt Factory at the new Old Fellows Hall is now running on full time. It pays better wages and nearly fifty colored girls are employed there.

—O, yes, he will serve you either in the liver or burial department. Of course you saw Mr. W. Isaac Johnson's advertisement.

—Miss Virginia B. Harper who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Easton of Lasey, Louisa County, Va., has returned. Miss Harper like most of our girls shows that she has been well treated. We are glad to welcome them all back to their home and work.

—We direct attention to the rally of the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. W. E. Parlee, the pastor is a gentleman of ability, and his efforts in behalf of this struggling congregation deserve the cordial support of this community. Go and hear the able divines and be benefited by this down-pour of the gospel.

—Miss Fannie F. Elliott has returned to the city much improved from her extended trip to Brooklyn, New York, Atlantic City and Philadelphia. While in Brooklyn she was the guest of her friend and co-worker, Miss Irene Field. Miss Elliott speaks in glowing terms of the hospitality shown her by Mrs. Field and family.

REDWOOD—ANDERSON—The marriage of Miss Mary Anderson of Middlesex County, Va., to Mr. Henry Redwood took place Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1893, at 1108 5th St. Rev. J. C. Braxton officiated.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Oct. 10, 93.—A well-known society lady of E. End Pittsburgh, Miss Tillie Harris is to get (\$8500) eight thousand, five hundred dollars in January from home as a present.

#### DEACON HARRIS CALLS ATTENTION

No Cause for Alarm.

The section-owners of the Union Mechanics Burying Ground need not be at all alarmed about reports now being circulated. Do not give your certificate to any one; neither pay any money to any one towards the expense of defending their sections. Our deeds to the property are all right, and will be produced at the proper time against the injunction. Call and see me and explanation will be given and all money for this purpose duly receipted for and paid to the counsel, whom we have employed.

BENJ. HARRIS,  
1201 St. James street,  
Richmond, Va.

Smallpox in Bristol.

Bristol, Tenn., October 9th.—Smallpox has developed in Bristol to such an extent as to make extraordinary precautions necessary. Twenty cases are reported by the authorities. They appeared in different parts of the city. The patients and various suspects were taken to the pest house to-night. The public schools on the Tennessee were closed to day, and the annual street fair has been postponed.